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Clothing Manufacturer



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Curios and Relics

Clothing Accessories

Hat Box

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

HATBOX BELONGED TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

SAMUEL HINKLE of Springfield, Ill., is possessor of a hatbox that once was the property of President Abraham Lincoln. The story of how it came into his hands will interest many old-time residents of the State and frequenters of its capital.

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Years ago Hugh Gallagher was the principal transfer man at Springfield. He handled trunks for statesmen, politicians, lobbyists, and all the hoi polloi in their train for more than fifty years. He knew everybody who brought more luggage than he could carry in one hand and was popular with all. After the death of President Lincoln the widow returned to Springfield, bringing with her forty-six trunks, making an array that staggered Gallagher. Mrs. Lincoln may have noticed his face, for as he loaded the baggage, she touched the old-fashioned hatbox with her gloved finger, saying:

"You may have that if you like, Hugh; I don't want it."

Gallagher took it, of course. For years it was cherished by him as a memento of the dead President, who had been a friend to him in life. But as the Gallagher children grew up they showed a preference for the old hatbox as a plaything. It gradually became a football for them and after they grew up it again took its place among Gallagher's treasures. Gallagher died a few years ago at 1010 Fifth street and in the distribution of his effects Mr. Hinkle got the old hatbox.

As it stands, the box is a vivid reminder of the silk hat of our grandfathers. It has the



shape of the old-style tall hat and the years of hard usage that have come to it only prove the honesty of its material and workmanship. It would serve as a pretty good protection for a hat, even today. The hasp is good, ready for its padlock as ever, and only its old-fashioned line would make it incongruous in the baggage-room of a Chicago railway station.



